GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
PERFORMANCE OF ESI HOSPITALS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employees State Insurance Hospitals at present in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding shortage of life saving drugs and unsatisfactory services in ESI Hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether the number of employees covered under ESI scheme is declining day by day due to shortage of doctors and medicines; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a): At present there are 14 ESI Hospitals in Maharashtra.

(b) & (c): A few complaints have been received regarding non-availability of some drugs in ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries in the State of Maharashtra. No complaints have however been received regarding non-availability of life saving drugs. As confirmed by the State Government 78 types of drugs are being provided through the ESI dispensaries/clinics of Insurance Medical Practitioners. About 350 types of drugs are available in ESI Hospitals and sufficient quantity of drugs are available with them for meeting the requirements.

(d) & (e): The State Government has also taken action for immediate redressal of genuine complaints of the beneficiaries regarding unsatisfactory services.

The number of employees covered under the ESI Scheme has marginally declined due to workers crossing of the wage ceiling of Rs.6500/- per month prescribed under the ESI Act, closure of some factories in the State of Maharashtra etc., and not due to shortage of Doctors and Medicines. The ESI Corporation is constantly endeavouring to alleviate the problems being faced by its beneficiaries and has taken the following steps to improve services:-

(i) Rs. 50 per I.P. family Unit has been placed in the revolving fund maintained by the Regional Director to ensure easy availability and smooth flow of funds for Super-speciality/Speciality treatments and reimbursements to Insured Persons.

(ii) Action plans for improving equipment availability and other services in Hospitals have been prepared. State Government of Maharashtra has been sanctioned equipments worth more than Rs.7 crore.

(iii) Funds have been given to the State Government to clear the past pending reimbursement bills.

(iv) Grievance redressal machinery has been geared up for prompt relief.

(v) The State Government has been advised to operate the Central Rate Contracts for procurement of medicines to avoid delays in getting supplies of good quality.